

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Ellen Gavin
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayer
Phyllis A. Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service From the Granada Exchange to the
Fairmont, East Chain, Northrop and Truman
Exchanges

ISSUE DATE: December 13, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-405,529/CP-00-1604

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS,
REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF
SOME ROUTES AND DISMISSAL OF
OTHERS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Granada exchange took place between August 21, and October 11, 2002.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the EAS routes proposed between 1) the Granada exchange and the Fairmont exchange, 2) the Granada exchange to the Fairmont-East Chain LCA, 3) the Granada exchange and the Fairmont-Truman local calling area (LCA), and 4) the Granada exchange and the Fairmont-Northrup LCA.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS

A. Routes Approved

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Granada exchange voted in favor of EAS for two proposed routes:

- 1) the Granada exchange and the Fairmont exchange and
- 2) the Granada exchange to the Fairmont-East Chain LCA.

For these routes, the results were as follows:

Polling results for Granada to Fairmont

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Granada	Fairmont	\$9.37	\$12.75	70.1	132	69.5	58	30.5

Polling results for Granada to Fairmont/East Chain

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Granada	Fairmont/E. Chain	\$1.37	\$1.88	66.5	101	55.8	80	44.2

Note: Rates are in addition to Fairmont base rates of \$9.37 (residential) and \$12.75 (business).

B. Routes Not Approved

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Granada exchange voted against two of the proposed routes:

- 1) the Granada exchange and the Fairmont-Truman LCA and
- 2) the Granada exchange to the Fairmont-Northrup LCA.

For these routes, the results were as follows:

Polling Results for Granada to Fairmont/Truman

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Granada	Fairmont/Truman	\$1.26	\$1.72	65.7	84	47.2	94	52.8

Note: Rates are in addition to Fairmont base rates of \$9.37 (residential) and \$12.75 (business).

Polling Results for Granada to Fairmont/Northrup

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Granada	Fairmont/Northrup	\$0.39	\$0.54	64.9	87	49.4	89	50.6

Note: Rates are in addition to Fairmont base rates of \$9.37 (residential) and \$12.75 (business).

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation.¹ Because a majority of the Granada customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the two aforementioned proposed EAS routes, the third and final criterion is met for these two routes.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the telephone company for the petitioning exchange in this matter, Granada Telephone Company (Granada or the Company), to implement the approved EAS routes within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order Granada to coordinate implementation of EAS in the Granada exchange with Frontier Communications of Minnesota (Frontier), the telephone company serving the Fairmont exchange and the Fairmont-East Chain LCA. The Commission will also require Granada to file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order and to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

IV. ORDER FOR DISMISSAL

Likewise, since a majority of Granada customers returning their ballots voted against EAS 1) between Granada and the Fairmont-Truman LCA and 2) between Granada and the Fairmont-Northrup LCA, the third criterion is not met for those proposed routes and the Commission will dismiss this petition with respect to those routes.

¹ The Commission has established three criteria for the installation of EAS. See In the Matter of an Investigation into the Appropriate Local Calling Scope, in Accordance with Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1994), ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION (February 26, 1996). In that Order, the third and final criterion was that if a majority of subscribers vote in favor of the installation of Extended Area Service (EAS), the Commission should order the telephone companies to install the service.

ORDER

Routes Approved

1. The EAS route between the Granada exchange and the Fairmont exchange and the EAS route between Granada and the Fairmont-East Chain LCA are hereby approved. Granada Telephone Company (Granada or the Company) shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. Granada shall coordinate the implementation of the EAS routes with Frontier Communications of Minnesota (Frontier), the company serving the Fairmont exchange and the Fairmont-East Chain LCA, and shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, the Company should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change.
3. Granada shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notice shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives, and the proposed implementation date (s) for the two approved routes. The notice shall also provide the polling results for the two routes denied in Order Paragraph 8 and inform customers that these two routes have been denied. After approval, the Company shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle.
4. Granada shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the Granada exchange (the petitioning exchange), either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. The Company must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
5. Granada shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. Frontier, the company serving the Fairmont exchange and the Fairmont-East Chain LCA, shall file proposed customer notices for customers in those exchanges for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the approved routes. The notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. Frontier shall send the notices during billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
7. Granada shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Order establishing the rates and terms for the two approved EAS routes. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of the EAS routes.

Routes Denied

8. The petition is denied with respect to two proposed routes: 1) Granada to Fairmont-Northrup LCA and 2) Granada to Fairmont-Truman LCA. Notice that these routes have been denied and the polling results for these two routes shall be included in the notices prepared pursuant to Order Paragraph 3.

Closing the Docket

9. After all steps required in Order Paragraphs 1-8 have been taken, this docket shall be closed.
10. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

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